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Food For Peace Program Will Ship Over Million Tons of Commodities

WASHINGTON—More than a million tons of U. S. commodities have been committed for shipment abroad this year for famine relief or economic development projects under the Food for Peace program.

George McGovern, director of the program, has just disclosed approval of four new agreements to bring the total 1961 volume to 2,162,103 tons. For all 1960, 963,769 tons of agricultural commodities were committed under the program.

More significantly, McGovern said, more than half the tonnage this year is going to support self-help economic development projects. Such projects last year involved only two countries, Tunisia and Afghanistan, and received less than 20 percent of the commodities shipped.

Two of the new agreements are for famine relief in Morocco and Tanganyika. The other two, for India and Libya, involved projects under which workers will get portions of their wages in U. S. food.

Other economic development programs, supported by U. S. food, have been set up this year in Morocco, Korea, Dahomey, Ethiopia, Iran and Tanganyika.

The total cost of the commodities, plus transportation charges, for the four new agreements is \$11,705,000.

THE WHITE House is getting sharply conflicting advice on the advisability of slipping a complete economic embargo on Castro's Cuba.

The Defense Department, in a letter by General Counsel Cyrus R. Vance, says a trade snafu could well result in "serious food shortages" on the island. (They would likely have to feed the starving!)

He contends that an embargo would not "vitally" affect U. S. interests and rejects any argument that such a move would endanger the U. S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

AT THE same time, the president has before him an intelligence estimate, prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency, that warns that any embargo would provide Premier Fidel Castro with a monumental propaganda weapon among the other Latin American states.

CIA Chief Allen Dulles argues that any aid to the U. S. in an economic embargo would be more than offset by damage to Uncle Sam's position with South American public opinion.

A year ago, the U. S. ordered controls on exports from this country to Cuba. Only shipments of food and medical supplies have been permitted.

The White House will have to develop a position before Congress returns to Washington in January. The House already has passed the Rogers bill imposing an embargo; final action will be taken in the Senate at the next session. The position of the White House could be the determining factor on the Senate action.

ABRAHAM RIBICOFF, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, made the welcoming address to a conference proposed by the American Medical Association.

As everyone present knew, the secretary and the association have been feuding for months, particularly over the administration's proposal for a national medical insurance plan under the Social Security system.

"As I stand before some of those who have made the most

of my remembrance of what happened which took place some years ago, when I served on the bench in Connecticut."

The incident involved a sailor and his sons who had been sentenced "repeatedly" for petty crimes. Once, when the father came up for sentencing, Ribicoff told him: "Before passing sentence, I want to tell you that you and your sons have given this court more troubles than anyone else in the whole city. Have you anything to say?"

"Yes, Judge," the man replied. "I just want to say that we haven't given you any more trouble than you've given us."

POSTMASTER General J. Edward Day tells the story of the English sailor who threw the staid Royal Medical Society into a tizzy of excitement when, in a letter, he recounted his miraculous cure of a broken leg.

His story was that, having fractured the limb by falling from the top of a mast, he had dressed it

with nothing but rat food. Three days later, he was able to walk as well as he could before the accident.

The Royal Society made quite a to-do over the cure until one enterprising doctor decided to investigate. Turns out the sailor had a wooden leg.

BARTENDERS ARE a sober lot, but in Washington, where per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages is almost the highest in the nation, the mixers and shakers are notoriously dry.

"Don't you ever take a drink?" one of the oldest bartenders was asked by one of his oldest customers.

The bartender shook his head and then gave the toetotalers an argument they should be able to use for years:

"Whisky wasn't made to be drunk," he said. "Whisky was made to be sold."

GEN. LYMAN Lemnitzer, head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is amused about the moves and shuffles that always seem to be going on in the Pentagon.

Whole offices and divisions have been shifted in the past—each move complete with walls being torn out, closets demolished and desks added.

Hearing of yet another shuffle, Lemnitzer joked: "What we ought to do is fix things so we could turn the whole Pentagon one degree to the right."

LES CARPENTER says in Quote:

Rep. E. Y. Berry (R-S D) arranged a meeting between Chief Ben Wildhorse of the South Dakota Sioux tribe and Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson because the chief had some advice to hand on. The message from Chief Wildhorse: "Be careful with your immigration laws, young man. We Indians were careless with ours."

A newspaperman here telephoned the Russian embassy, located a mere five blocks from the White House, and asked if the building had a bomb shelter. "Oh, no," he replied, "we look to your American government for protection if the city is bombed."